(a) whether a UNICEF report on child protection has revealed that one-third of the world's child brides live in the country;

(b) whether Government has examined the report;

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(d) whether Government proposes to make the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act more stringent;

(e) whether Government also proposes to take up the matter with the State Governments; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) to (c) The United Nations International Children Education Fund (UNICEF) Report, "The Progress for Children - A Report Card on Child Protection" of September, 2009, does mention that more than one in three women in the world, who were married as children are from India. But this Report was not released in India. Further, the Report takes into account only 61% of the world population and does not include data from populous countries like China. Thus, the statement that one-third of the world's child brides are from India, is incorrect.

As per the Census of India 2001, the number of ever married girls below 18 years was 48.7 lakhs. The Census data also shows that the proportion of currently married women in India who got married below the age of 18 years has declined from 50.4 in 1991 to 44.7 in 2001. Also, the median age at marriage of currently married women has increased from 16.8 to 18.4 years over the same period.

(d) The Government of India repealed the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 and replaced it by "The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006" with a view to prohibit child marriages and to provide for stringent punishment for offenders. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 was notified in the Gazette of India on 11th January, 2007 and has been enforced w.e.f. 1.11.2007.

(e) and (f) The Ministry of Women & Child Development has requested the State Governments/UTs to frame Rules and to appoint Child Marriage Prohibition Officers as required under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, for its effective implementation. 11 States and 2 UTs have already framed Rules under the Act. Another set of 11 States and 2 UTs have also appointed Child Marriage Prohibition Officers.

Norms for air pollution

*353. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has issued air norms to regulate quality and quantity of air;

(b) whether the air norms issued by Government are uniformally applicable to the industries and residents;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which the air norms will clear pollutants from the air?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has recently revised the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and limits for 12 pollutants have been notified (copy of NAAQS is attached as Statement (*See* below). Area classification based on land-use has been done away with so that there are uniform ambient air quality norms for residential and industrial areas.

(c) The revised standards are based on global best practices, local Indian conditions and are in keeping with the advancements in technology and research. The salient features of the revised NAAQS are:

(i) Area classification based on land-use has been done away with so that industrial areas have to conform to the same standards as those for residential areas.

(ii) The standards shall be applicable uniformly with the exception of stringent standards for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2) and Sulphur Dioxide (SO_2) in the Ecologically Sensitive Areas.

(iii) The previous standards for residential area have been uniformly applied for particulate matter less than 10 micron in size (PM_{10}), Carbon Monoxide and Ammonia. More stringent limits have been prescribed for Lead, SO_2 and NO_2.

(iv) Suspended particulate matter (SPM) as parameter has been replaced by particulate matter having size less than 2.5 micron ($PM_{2.5}$) which is more relevant for public health.

(v) Other new parameters, such as, Ozone, Arsenic, Nickel, Benzene and Benzo(a)Pyrene (BaP) have been included for the first time.

(d) These ambient air quality standards provide a legal framework for the control of air pollution and the protection of public health. It is difficult to assess the extent to which these air quality norms would clear the pollutants from the air. However, stricter and comprehensive air quality norms are bound to serve as a bench mark for proactive environmental planning and effective control of air pollution.

Statement

Norms for air pollution

National ambient air quality standards (2009)

S.No.	Pollutant	Time Weighted Average	Concentration in Ambient Air		Methods of Measurement
			Industrial, Residential, Rural and other area	Ecologically Sensitive area (notified by Central Government)	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1	Sulphur Dioxide (SO_2), ug/m^3	Annual*	50	20	- Improved West and Gaeke
		24 hours**	80	80	- Ultraviolet fluorescence
2	Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2), ug/m^3	Annual*	40	30	- Jacob & Hochheiser modified (Na-Arsenite)
		24 hours**	80	80	- Chemiluminescence
3	Particulate Matter (size less than 10 um) or PM_{10} ug/m^3	Annual*	60	60	- Gravimetric - TOEM
		24 hours**	100	100	- Beta attenuation
4	Particulate Matter (size less than 2.5 um) or $PM_{2.5}$ ug/m^3	Annual*	40	40	-Gravimetric - TOEM
		24 hours**	60	60	- Beta attenuation
5	Ozone (O_3) ug/m^3	8 hours**	100	100	- UV photometric - Chemilminescence
		1 hour**	180	180	- Chemical method

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
6	Lead (Pb) ug/m^3	Annual *	0.50	0.50	- AAS/ ICP method after sampling on EPM 2000 or equivalent filter paper.
		24 hours * *	1.0	1.0	- ED-XRF using Teflon filter
7	Carbon Monoxide (CO) mg/m^3	8 hours * *	02	02	- Non Dispersive Infra Red (NDIR)
		1 hour * *	04	04	spectroscopy
8	Ammonia (NH_3) ug/m^3	Annual *	100	100	- Chemiluminescence
		24 hours * *	400	400	- Indophenol blue method
9	Benzene (C_6H_6) ug/m^3	Annual *	05	05	- gas chromatography based continuous - Adsorption and Desorption followed by GC analysis
10	BaP (particulate phase only ng/m^3)	Annual *	01	01	- Solvent extraction followed by HPLC/GC analysis
11	Arsenic, ng/m^3	Annual *	06	06	- AAS / ICP method after sampling on EPM 2000 or equivalent filter paper.
12	Nickel, ng/m^3	Annual *	20	20	- AAS / ICP method after sampling on EPM 2000 or equivalent filter paper.

* Annual arithmetic mean of minimum 104 measurements in a year at a particular site taken twice a week 24 hourly at uniform intervals.

** 24 hourly or 08 hourly or 01 hourly monitored values, as applicable, shall be complied with 98% of the time in a year. 2% of the time, they may exceed the limits but not on two, consecutive days of monitoring.

Note

1. Whenever and wherever monitoring results on two consecutive days of monitoring exceed the limits specified above for the respective category, it shall be considered adequate reason to institute regular or continuous monitoring and further investigation,".